

CLAIMS:

We Claim:

1. A modular plug for terminating a cable having twisted signal pairs of wires held therein, comprising:

5 a plug housing having a plurality of contact blade-receiving slots at a front end and defining a longitudinally extending cavity opening at a rear end;

a strain relief member defining a channel for receiving the cable; and

10 a wire aligner interposed between said housing and said strain relief member and arranged at least partially in said cavity in said housing, said wire aligner aligning wires of the cable into specific position relative to said slots and including crimping means for crimping the cable when received in said channel of said strain relief member.

2. The modular plug of claim 1, wherein said crimping means comprise a plurality of retention fingers extending rearwardly from said wire aligner into said channel.

15 3. The modular plug of claim 2, wherein said retention fingers include serrations formed on an inner surface at a rearward end for frictionally engaging the cable.

4. The modular plug of claim 2, wherein said retention fingers are angled toward a center of said channel.

5. The modular plug of claim 2, wherein said channel has a front end adjacent said wire

6. The modular plug of claim 2, wherein said retention fingers are spaced around a center of said channel.

5 7. The modular plug of claim 2, wherein said wire aligner includes a support wall having a forward facing surface and a rearward facing surface, said retention fingers being arranged to project rearwardly from said rearward facing surface of said wire aligner.

8. The modular plug of claim 2, wherein said plurality of retention fingers comprise three retention fingers.

10 9. The modular plug of claim 8, wherein said wire aligner includes a first support wall having a forward facing surface and a rearward facing surface and a second support wall arranged substantially perpendicular to said first support wall for separating the wires of the cable, said first support wall including a first opening above said second support wall for receiving at least one of said pairs of wires and a second opening below said second support wall for receiving at least one 15 of said pairs of wires, two of said retention fingers being arranged above said second support wall alongside said first opening and one of said retention fingers being arranged below said second opening.

10. The modular plug of claim 1, wherein said crimping means are integral with said wire aligner.

11. The modular plug of claim 1, wherein said wire aligner includes a support wall having a forward facing surface and a rearward facing surface, said crimping means being arranged on said 5 rearward facing surface of said support wall.

12. The modular plug of claim 1, further comprising coupling means for coupling said strain relief member to said wire aligner.

13. The modular plug of claim 12, wherein said coupling means comprise retention walls formed on said wire aligner and latches arranged on said strain relief member and engaging with and 10 projecting forwardly over said retention walls.

14. The modular plug of claim 1, further comprising coupling means for coupling said wire aligner to said housing.

15. The modular plug of claim 14, wherein said coupling means comprise latches arranged on lateral surfaces of said wire aligner and receptacles arranged on said housing.

15 16. A combined cable crimping member and wire aligner for a modular plug including a housing with contact blade-receiving slots at a front end and a longitudinally extending cavity

opening at a rear end, and a strain relief member defining a channel for receiving a cable having twisted signal pairs of wires, comprising:

a row of wire-receiving channels formed at a front end and adapted to be positioned in alignment with the slots in the housing, each of said channels receiving a respective wire of the
5 cable,

crimping means arranged at a rear end for crimping the cable when received in the channel of the strain relief member, and

a guiding structure for guiding the wires to said channels.

17. The combined cable crimping member and wire aligner of claim 16, wherein said
10 guiding structure comprises a first vertical support wall having a forward facing surface and a rearward facing surface, said crimping means being arranged on said rearward facing surface.

18. The combined cable crimping member and wire aligner of claim 17, wherein said crimping means comprise a plurality of retention fingers.

19. The combined cable crimping member and wire aligner of claim 18, wherein said
15 retention fingers include serrations formed on an inner surface at a rearward end for frictionally engaging the cable.

20. The combined cable crimping member and wire aligner of claim 18, wherein said retention fingers are angled inward toward one another.

21. The combined cable crimping member and wire aligner of claim 18, wherein said plurality of retention fingers comprise three retention fingers.

22. The combined cable crimping member and wire aligner of claim 21, wherein said guiding structure further comprises a second horizontal support wall, said first support wall including
5 a first opening above said second support wall for receiving at least one of the pairs of wires and a second opening below said second support wall for receiving at least one of the pairs of wires, two of said retention fingers being arranged above said second support wall alongside said first opening and one of said retention fingers being arranged below said second opening.